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Appn. Number: 10/083,746

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Applicant: Herman Ehrenburg

Appn. Title: Visualizably-Presented, Computer-Compatible,

                  Color-Coded Manual Input System

Examiner/GAU: _____/2674

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Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached are a completed Form SB/08 and copies of the pertinent parts of the references cited thereon.

Claim 1 defines novel and patentable subject matter over both of the cited patents.

Regarding Kafafian, he shows a chart (Fig. 8) in which diagonal rows correspond to keys rather than digits. Each of the fingers (index, middle, and ring) operates two keys and each of these keys has a corresponding diagonal row. The diagonal rows are only partially arranged in accordance with the digits that operate the keys. Consequently it is not possible for an operator to associate the diagonal rows directly with the digits and difficult to map the input symbols in each of the diagonal rows to the corresponding digit. The chart is also very crowded making it difficult to find a symbol and the keys that input the symbol, in particular it has a large number of

input symbols and a large number of diagonal rows labeled with a large number of words.

Applicant by contrast shows an array in which diagonal rows represent fingers rather than keys. That the diagonal rows represent fingers is indicated by colored-areas resembling and representing finger tops. The diagonal rows are arranged in accordance with the operator's fingers operating the keyboard. Consequently the operator can associate the diagonal rows directly with the fingers, thereby mapping the input symbols in each of the diagonal rows to the corresponding finger.

Regarding Holden, he shows a matrix (Fig. 21) in which columns (and rows) correspond to keys rather than digits, as indicated in Fig. 5. (The leftmost column corresponding to no-key.) He also mentions that the matrix can be tilted 45 degrees into a symmetric position. In this case the columns and rows become diagonal rows. The arrangement and orientation of these diagonal rows is very different to the arrangement and orientation of the corresponding digits of an operator operating a keyboard so that it becomes difficult if not impossible to associate the diagonal rows with the corresponding digits of an operator operating a keyboard.

Applicant by contrast shows four left-hand columns and four right-hand columns and diagonal rows, all of which represent fingers. That the left-hand columns and right-hand columns represent fingers is indicated by the height of the columns and by the standing apart of the columns, which makes the columns resemble the fingers. The columns in addition are shown approximately in line with the respective operator's fingers operating the keyboard. That the diagonal rows represent fingers is indicated by colored-areas resembling and representing finger tops. The diagonal rows in addition are shown approximately in the same direction as the corresponding fingers of an operator operating a keyboard.

The distinctions described above are recited in claim 1 as follows:

> (b) providing a legend presenting a plurality of first indicia representing said plurality of inputs, said first plurality of indicia selected from the class consisting of visual and tactile indicia, a first sub-plurality of said plurality of first indicia arranged in a plurality of groups, each of said groups representing a specific digit, each chord corresponding to a specific group of said groups comprising a specific switch of said switches, said specific switch corresponding to the digit represented by said specific group, said groups arranged so that said operator can associate said groups directly with said respective digits, thereby mapping each first indicium of each of said groups to the digit represented by the group,
>
> whereby said operator can easily determine one or two of said digits corresponding to each indicium of said first plurality by visualizing the position of the indicium relative to said groups.

Kafafian and Holden clearly fail to meet this limitation because they do not have "each of said groups representing a specific digit, ..., said groups arranged so that said operator can associate said groups directly with said respective digits, thereby mapping each first indicium of each of said groups to the digit represented by the group".

Very respectfully,

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Enc.: SB/08, patents US-3,507,376, and US-4,655,621

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